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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/780,962	02/09/2001	Erik James Reed	85804-019800 (Y62-40406)	6926
32361	7590	12/01/2006	EXAMINER	
GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP MET LIFE BUILDING 200 PARK AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10166			SIDDIQI, MOHAMMAD A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2154	

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/780,962	<b>Applicant(s)</b> REED, ERIK JAMES	
	<b>Examiner</b> Mohammad A. Siddiqi	<b>Art Unit</b> 2154	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 September 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 and 55-58 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 and 55-58 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>08/23/2004, 07/02/2001</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-36 and 55-58 are presented for examination. Claims 37-54 have been cancelled. *Claims 55-58 are new.*
2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 08/23/2004 and 07/02/2001 are being considered by the examiner.

### ***Specification***

3. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: specification does not properly disclose subject matter such as: master table of content information and master songprint identifier, as claimed in claims 1, 23, 25 and 27.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1, 23, 25,27, and 29 recites the limitation "songprint identifier is derived from digitized content" in last line of the claims. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Examiner cannot determine which songprint identifier is referred to, multiple songprint identifiers in specification or recited master songprint identifier in the claim.

6. Claims 1, 23, 25,27, and 29 recites the limitation "songprint identifier is derived from digitized content" in last line of the claims. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. An essential purpose of patent examination is to fashion claims that are precise, clear, correct, and unambiguous. Only in this way can uncertainties of claim scope be removed... (In re Zletz 13 USPQ2d 1320 (Fed. Cir. 1989))

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a

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whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-36 and 55-58 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over anticipated by Hurtado et al. (6,611,812) (hereinafter Hurtado) in view of Carpentier et al. (6,807,632) (hereinafter Carpentier).

9. As per claim 1, Hurtado discloses in a system comprising a communications network connecting a plurality of network servers and a plurality of computers, a network server comprising:

a verification database comprising (col 26, lines 45-65, and col 31, lines 55-64);

master table of contents (metadata provides information about the content, quality, condition, and other characteristics of data, here metadata provides information about the music CD .g., artist, producer, album cover, track length, col 12, lines 17-25) information corresponding to each of a plurality of sets of digitized content (col 20, lines 14-35 and col 72, lines 54-64);

at least one master songprint identifier corresponding to each of the plurality of sets of digitized content (metadata secure container, col 30, line 46 – col 32, line 67); and

program code operative to cause the server to (Digital Content Electronic Distribution System, 100, fig 1A, col 11, lines 9-64):

receive at least one of plurality of selections of table of contents information from at least one of the plurality of computers (A Secure Container (SC), 109, fig 1D, col 26, line 45 – col 28, line 39);

receive at least one of a plurality of songprint identifiers from the at least one of the plurality of computers (figs 10-16, col 83, col 15, lines 15-44, Hurtado further discloses in columns 16-17 "In the Secure Digital Content Electronic Distribution System 100, since **SC(s)** contain several data parts, a digest is calculated for each part and a summary digest is calculated for the concatenated part digests. The summary digest is encrypted using the private key of the issuer of the SC(s). The encrypted summary digest is the issuer's digital signature for the SC(s). The part digests and the digital signature are included in the body of the SC(s). The recipients of SC(s) can verify the integrity of the SC(s) and its parts by means of the received digital signature and part digests.

A one-way hash algorithm is used to calculate a message digest. A hash algorithm takes a variable-length-input message and converts it into a fixed length string, the message digest. A one-way hash algorithm operates only in one direction. That is, it is easy to calculate the digest for an input message, but it is very difficult (computationally infeasible) to

generate the input message from its digest. Because of the properties of the one-way hash functions, one can think of a message digest as a **fingerprint of the message.**

The more common one-way hash functions are MD5 from RSA Data Security and SHA designed by the US National Institute of Technology and Standards (NITS). "), and

determine whether to provide authorization information using said verification database, the at least one of a plurality of selections of table of contents information and the at least one of a plurality of selections of songprint identifiers (col 26, line 45 – col 28, line 39, Hurtado further discloses in columns 16-17 "In the Secure Digital Content Electronic Distribution System 100, since SC(s) contain several data parts, a digest is calculated for each part and a summary digest is calculated for the concatenated part digests. The summary digest is encrypted using the private key of the issuer of the SC(s). The encrypted summary digest is the issuer's digital signature for the SC(s). The part digests and the digital signature are included in the body of the SC(s). The recipients of SC(s) can verify the integrity of the SC(s) and its parts by means of the received digital signature and part digests.

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The more common one-way hash functions are MD5 from RSA Data Security and SHA designed by the US National Institute of Technology and Standards (NITS). ”),

Hurtado specifically does not disclose wherein each songprint identifier is derived from digitized content. Songprint identifier is derived from the digitized is commonly known knowledge in the distribution of digital asset such as music. For example, Carpentier discloses each songprint identifier is derived from digitized content (e-CLIP is a reproducible, reliably unique identifier for collection of digital information, col 4, line 25-67, col 5, lines 19-31). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Carpentier and Hurtado. The motivation (as it is evidenced in col 15-16, 27-28, such as finger printing and also the audio file created for the sample **clip is** passed as a metadata file to be included in the Metadata SC(s))



would have been to secure delivery and rights management of digital assets over global communication network.

10. As per claims 2 and 30, claims are rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Hurtado discloses to receive one selection of table of content information from the at least one of the plurality of computers (figs 10-16, col 83, col 15, lines 15-44).

11. As per claims 3 and 31, claims are rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Hurtado discloses to receive a songprint identifier from the at least one of the plurality of computers (figs 10-16, col 83, col 15, lines 15-44).

12. As per claim 4, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Hurtado discloses wherein the table of content information comprises at least one length of digital content (fig 16, col 61, lines 25-29).

13. As per claim 5, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Hurtado discloses to request at least one of a plurality of regions of digitized content from the at least one of the plurality of

computers (fig 6 and 16, col 95-96).

14. As per claim 6, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Hurtado discloses to request one region of digitized content from the at least one of the plurality of computers (col 95-96).

15. As per claim 7, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Carpentier discloses the request for one or more regions of digitized content is generated as a function of a pseudo-random sequence (col 4, lines 26-67).

16. As per claim 8, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Carpentier discloses the pseudo-random sequence is a function of a network address of the at least one of the plurality of computers (col 4, lines 26-67).

17. As per claim 9, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Carpentier discloses wherein the pseudo-random sequence is a function of a time of day (fig 2, col 4, lines 26-67).

18. As per claim 10, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Carpentier discloses wherein the pseudo-random sequence is a function of both a network address of at least one of the plurality of computers and a time of day (fig 1, col 4, lines 26-67).

19. As per claim 11, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Hurtado discloses wherein the request for regions of digitized content is further comprised of a request for at least one of a plurality of decoy regions of digitized content from the at least one of the plurality of computers (SC processor creates a request order on the end user device, please see the discussion of the Digital Secure Container structure which contains the key to verify, fig 3, col 88, lines 29-67).

20. As per claim 12, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Carpentier discloses wherein the request for an at least one of a plurality of decoy regions of digitized content is a function of a pseudo-random sequence (see discussion, col 4, line 26- col 5 line 19).

21. As per claim 13, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Carpentier discloses wherein the pseudo-random sequence is a function of a network address of the at least one of the

plurality of computers (col 4, line 26- col 5 line 19).

22. As per claim 14, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Carpentier discloses wherein the pseudo-random sequence is comprising a function of a time of day (see discussion, col 4, line 26- col 5 line 19).

23. As per claim 15, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Carpentier discloses wherein the pseudo-random sequence is comprising a function of both a network address of the at least one of the plurality of computers and the time of day (see discussion, col 4, line 26- col 5 line 19).

24. As per claim 16, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Carpentier discloses wherein the request for one or more than regions of digitized content is further comprised of only one non-decoy region of digitized content from the at least one of the plurality of computers (see discussion, col 4, line 26- col 5 line 19).

25. As per claim 17, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Hurtado discloses wherein the verification database is

further comprised of only one master table of contents identifier for each of a corresponding plurality of sets of digitized content (digital content library, col 95, lines 8-29).

26. As per claim 18, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Hurtado discloses wherein the verification database is further comprised of only one master songprint identifier for each of a corresponding plurality of sets of digitized content (col 12, lines 17-25 and col 31, lines 55-64)

27. As per claims 19 and 32, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Hurtado discloses further programmed to verify whether the received table of content information correlates with the master table of content information (col 31, lines 55-64).

28. As per claims 20, 24, 28 and 33, claims are rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Hurtado discloses to verify whether the received table of content information correlates perfectly with the master table of content information (col 31, lines 55-64).

29. As per claims 21, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Hurtado discloses programmed to verify whether the received songprint identifiers correlates with the master songprint identifier (col 31, lines 55-64 and col 12, lines 17-25).

30. As per claims 22, 26, 34, and 35, claims are rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Hurtado discloses further programmed to verify whether the received songprint identifier correlates perfectly with any master songprint identifier (col 31, lines 55-64 and col 12, lines 17-25).

31. As per Claim 23, 25, 27 and 29 are rejected based on the same reasoning as claim 1, in addition to Hurtado discloses as a function of whether or not the received selections of table of contents information correlate with any of the master table of contents information (col 31, lines 55-64 and col 12, lines 17-25),

request at least one of a plurality of regions of digitized content from the at least one of plurality of computers (SC processor creates a request order on the end user device, please see the discussion of the Digital Secure Container structure, fig 3, col 88, lines 29-67, col 88, lines 33-51).

32. As per claim 36, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Carpentier discloses read table of contents data from the medium (see discussion, col 4, line 26- col 5 line 19);

compute a cryptographic hash value of the concatenation of the lengths of each track on the medium (see discussion, col 4, line 26- col 5 line 19); and  
truncate the cryptographic hash value (see discussion, col 4, line 26- col 5 line 19).

55. As per claim 55, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Carpentier discloses each master songprint identifier is derived from a digitized content master, and wherein each received songprint identifier is derived from a digitized content copy (see discussion, col 4, line 26- col 5 line 19).

56. As per claim 56, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Carpentier discloses the server receives table of contents Information and a songprint identifier corresponding to the digitized content copy, and wherein the server is further programmed to use the received table of contents information and songprint identifiers to identify a correlation between a digitized content master having corresponding

information stored in the verification database and the digitized content copy (see discussion, col 4, line 26- col 5 line 19).

57. As per claim 57, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Carpentier discloses the server is further programmed to verify the digitized content copy using information stored in the verification database corresponding to the correlated digitized content master (see discussion, col 4, line 26- col 5 line 19, col 7, lines15-26).

58. As per claim 58, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Carpentier discloses the server is further programmed to request at least one content portion of the digitized content copy using the identified correlation between one of the digitized content masters and the digitized content copy (see discussion, col 4, line 26- col 5 line 19, col 7, lines15-26).

### ***Response to Arguments***

33. Applicant's arguments filed 09/13/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive, therefore rejections to claims 1-36 and 55-58 is maintained.



34. In the remarks applicants argued that:

Regarding 112 second paragraph on page 13, claims 1, 23, 25,27, and 29 recites the limitation "songprint identifier is derived from digitized content" in last line of the claims. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Examiner cannot determine which songprint identifier is referred to, multiple songprint identifiers in specification or recited master songprint identifier in the claim. Examiner cannot determine whether master songprint identifier is included in the received plurality of selections of songprint identifier in the current scope of the claim. Therefore, 112 second paragraph is maintained.

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Hurtado discloses a verification database comprising (col 26, lines 45-65, and col 31, lines 55-

64); master table of contents (metadata provides information about the content, quality, condition, and other characteristics of data, here metadata provides information about the music CD .g., artist, producer, album cover, track length, col 12, lines 17-25) information corresponding to each of a plurality of sets of digitized content (col 20, lines 14-35 and col 72, lines 54-64); at least one master songprint identifier corresponding to each of the plurality of sets of digitized content (metadata secure container, col 30, line 46 – col 32, line 67); and program code operative to cause the server to (Digital Content Electronic Distribution System, 100, fig 1A, col 11, lines 9-64): receive at least one of plurality of selections of table of contents information from at least one of the plurality of computers (A Secure Container (SC), 109, fig 1D, col 26, line 45 – col 28, line 39); receive at least one of a plurality of songprint identifiers from the at least one of the plurality of computers (figs 10-16, col 83, col 15, lines 15-44, Hurtado further discloses in columns 16-17 “In the Secure Digital Content Electronic Distribution System 100, since **SC(s)** contain several data parts, a digest is calculated for each part and a summary digest is calculated for the concatenated part digests. The summary digest is encrypted using the private key of the issuer of the SC(s). The encrypted summary digest is the issuer's digital signature for the SC(s). The part digests and the digital signature are included in the body of the SC(s). The recipients of SC(s) can

verify the integrity of the SC(s) and its parts by means of the received digital signature and part digests.

A one-way hash algorithm is used to calculate a message digest. A hash algorithm takes a variable-length-input message and converts it into a fixed length string, the message digest. A one-way hash algorithm operates only in one direction. That is, it is easy to calculate the digest for an input message, but it is very difficult (computationally infeasible) to generate the input message from its digest. Because of the properties of the one-way hash functions, one can think of a message digest as a **fingerprint of the message**.

The more common one-way hash functions are MD5 from RSA Data Security and SHA designed by the US National Institute of Technology and Standards (NITS). "), and

determine whether to provide authorization information using said verification database, the at least one of a plurality of selections of table of contents information and the at least one of a plurality of selections of songprint identifiers (col 26, line 45 – col 28, line 39, Hurtado further discloses in columns 16-17 "In the Secure Digital Content Electronic Distribution System 100, since SC(s) contain several data parts, a digest is calculated for each part and a summary digest is calculated for the concatenated part digests. The summary digest is encrypted using the

private key of the issuer of the SC(s). The encrypted summary digest is the issuer's digital signature for the SC(s). The part digests and the digital signature are included in the body of the SC(s). The recipients of SC(s) can verify the integrity of the SC(s) and its parts by means of the received digital signature and part digests.

A one-way hash algorithm is used to calculate a message digest. A hash algorithm takes a variable-length-input message and converts it into a fixed length string, the message digest. A one-way hash algorithm operates only in one direction. That is, it is easy to calculate the digest for an input message, but it is very difficult (computationally infeasible) to generate the input message from its digest. Because of the properties of the one-way hash functions, one can think of a message digest as a **fingerprint of the message**.

The more common one-way hash functions are MD5 from RSA Data Security and SHA designed by the US National Institute of Technology and Standards (NITS). "). Carpentier discloses each songprint identifier is derived from digitized content (e-CLIP is a reproducible, reliably unique identifier for collection of digital information, col 4, line 25-67, col 5, lines 19-31). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Carpentier and Hurtado. The motivation (as it is evidenced in col 15-16, 27-

28, such as finger printing and also the audio file created for the sample **clip is** passed as a metadata file to be included in the Metadata SC(s)) would have been to secure delivery and rights management of digital assets over global communication network.

**Argument:** Hurtado and Carpentier do not disclose a server receiving table of content from the computer as a function of whether or not the received information correlates with the received table of contents information.

**Response:** Hurtado discloses a server receiving table of content from the computer as a function of whether or not the received information correlates with the received table of contents information (A Secure Container (SC), 109, fig 1D, col 26, line 45 – col 28, line 39, Hurtado further discloses in columns 16-17 "In the **Secure Digital Content Electronic Distribution System 100, since SC(s) contain several data parts**, a digest is calculated for each part and a summary digest is calculated for the concatenated part digests. The summary digest is encrypted using the private key of the issuer of the SC(s). The encrypted summary digest is the issuer's digital signature for the SC(s). The part digests and the digital signature are included in the body of the SC(s). The recipients of SC(s) **can verify the integrity of the SC(s)** and its parts by means of the received digital signature and part digests." ).

**Argument:** Hurtado does not disclose the request for regions of digitized content is further comprised of a request for at least one of a plurality of decoy regions of digitized content from the at least one of the plurality of.

**Response:** Hurtado discloses the request for regions of digitized content is further comprised of a request for at least one of a plurality of decoy regions (decoy regions are included in the key) of digitized content from the at least one of the plurality of computers (SC processor creates a request order on the end user device, please see the discussion of the Digital Secure Container structure which contains the key to verify, fig 3, col 88, lines 29-67).

**Argument:** Carpentier does not disclose the request for an at least one of a plurality of decoy regions of digitized content is a function of a pseudo-random sequence.

**Response:** Carpentier discloses the request for an at least one of a plurality of decoy regions of digitized content is a function of a pseudo-random sequence ( col 4, line 26- col 5 line 19, "A cryptographic hash function is used to compute an identifier for the data being represented. Each binary asset is treated as a potentially unique binary sequence. That is to say that any binary entity has a series of binary digits which, in sequence, follow a potentially unique pattern of finite length. Thus, a binary asset at an instant

in time is a binary sequence which may or may not be unique. The use of a cryptographic hash function establishes a digital fingerprint or signature that virtually uniquely identifies the binary sequence. The cryptographic hash binary sequence identifier is also referred to as a content-addressable or content-based name for the data. When a group of files or other digital assets is represented, an identifier is generated for each of the files using a cryptographic hash function and placed in a descriptor file. The descriptor file also includes meta data such as arbitrary directory structure (including relational or hierarchical relationships) information as well as file, record, or other asset meta data such as file, record, or asset name, size, date and time stamps and other descriptive data or attributes. ").

### ***Conclusion***

35. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will

expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohammad A. Siddiqi whose telephone number is (571) 272-3976. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan J. Flynn can be reached on (571) 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MAS

Patent Application  
No. 09/780,962  
Filed 09/24/01  
Inventor: [illegible]  
Attorney: [illegible]

